

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 2 May 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 AUGUST 1997

1. **SITE NAME:** Yolo County Airport
(Winters-Davis Flight Strip)

SITE NUMBER: J09CA009400

LOCATION:

City: Davis
County: Yolo
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA009402

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC; 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Yolo County Airport, consisting of approximately 495 acres, is the main body of a 510 acre tract once known during WW II as the Winters-Davis Flight Strip. It is located in Yolo County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of downtown Davis. The airport was placed under the administrative control of Yolo County in 1949, but remained

vacant until sometime during the 1960's. After the county resurfaced part of the original runway in 1971, small aircraft and local cropdusting planes started using the field. These entities continue flying operations out of Yolo County Airport to the present day.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. Before 1942, the site was used primarily for the production of livestock and grain until acquired by the Federal government. By use permit from the U. S. Public Roads Administration (PRA), dated 3 November 1943, 201.58 acres were transferred to the War Department. An additional 308.57 acres in total were acquired by the War Department by Declaration of Taking between 1942 and 1943, for a total 510.15 acres. Initial construction began on 20 July 1942 and was completed on 29 October 1942. Improvements include the runway of dimensions of 8,000 feet long by 300 feet wide, with 4,000 feet of this runway hard surface. Additional construction in 1943 included an operations tower, five bomb fuze storage magazines, and thirteen bomb storage revetments. They also installed tanks for 50,000 gallons of aviation fuel, temporary troop quarters and various other facilities.

b. Initially the Winters-Davis Flight Strip fell under the jurisdiction of the 45th Air Base Group at Hamilton Army Air Base (AAB), San Rafael, California. Although the Army determined that the field would serve as a medium bomber base, Hamilton Field used the flight strip as a training sub-base for P-38 pilots of the 78th pursuit Group and P-39 pilots of the 328th Fighter. The strip provided alternate basing for B-25's normally located at McClellan AAB. On 15 July 1944, jurisdiction of the flight strip fell to the Western Flying Training Command which continued the P-38 and P-39 training. Administration of the base became the duty of Mather AAB, Sacramento, California, which later transferred these responsibilities to the Stockton Army Air Field in November 1944. The Army Air Corps declared the strip excess on 15 December 1944. Finally, the base became a sub-base of the McClellan AAB on 15 May 1945 until its transfer to inactive status under the War Assets Administration (WAA).

c. The use permit for 201.58 acres was relinquished to the PRA on 12 April 1946. The remaining 308.57 acres transferred to the WAA on 21 September 1946. Subsequently, a total of 294.4 acres were transferred by quitclaim deed from the WAA on 14 June 1948, along with the 201.58 acres from the PRA, to the County of Yolo for use as an airport. The remaining 14.17 acres from the WAA reverted to the original owners, and is presently owned by St. Mary's College and used for agriculture purposes.

d. Yolo County is currently leasing the land for many different purposes. These include aircraft schools; a parachute club and jumping school; crop dusting companies; and leisure and private travel. The Yolo Sportsman Association uses land for a trap shoot, 50-yard pistol range, 100-yard rifle range, and an archery range along with associated facilities. The county leases the unimproved airport land for farming, including the former bomb storage area at the south side of the airport. Farming operations in the former bomb storage area have turned up miniature practice bombs.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area A:

Size, Acres:	Approximately 60
Former Use:	Bomb Storage Area
Present Use:	Partially crops and unimproved land
Probable End Use:	Same as above
Ordinance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Miniature Practice Bombs, AN-MK 23 and AN-MK 25

Area B:

Size, Acres:	Approximately 450
Former Use:	Airfield and associated buildings
Present Use:	Airfield and Yolo Sportsman Club
Probable End Use:	Same as above
Ordinance Presence:	None

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for the Yolo County Airport formerly Winters-Davis Flight Strip) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in March 1995.

7. STRATEGY: Area A: EE/CA
Area B: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group recommended an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for Area A since there was confirmed debris from miniature practice bombs found in this area over the years. No Further Action (NOFA) is recommended for the remainder of this FUDS. The author of the ASR stated some concern about small arms residue at the Sportsman Club target ranges. Small arms residue is not an explosive hazard and there is no documentation to prove that this area was used as a small arms target range during the military usage of this site.

b. There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species or natural communities.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only